Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, IAEA
SUBJECT: US/EGYPTIAN PROGRAM IN CIVIL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

- 1. KAMEL EFFAT DISCUSSED SAFEGUARDS ASPECTS OF PROPOSED EGYPTIAN NUCLEAR REACTOR PURCHASE WITH MISSION LAST WEEK. EFFAT IS EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL WHO FOLLOWS IAEA AFFAIRS MOST CLOSELY AND MISSION HAS HAD GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM OVER THE YEARS.
- 2. EFFAT REPORTED ON SIGNING OF PROVISIONAL FUEL SUPPLY CONTRACT AND SAID HE HOPED NEGOTIATIONS WOULD MOVE QUICKLY ON PROPOSED COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH US. HE REPORTED THAT IN CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON IT HAD BEEN ASSUMED THAT NEGOTIATION OF TRILATERAL US-IAEA-EGYPTIAN SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WOULD COMMENCE IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE. HE PROVIDED MISSION WITH A DRAFT LETTER (APPARENTLY PREPARED BY DEPT.) TO ACCOMPLISH JOINT APPROACH TO THE IAEA FOR THE INITIATION OF THE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT NEGOTIATION, AND SAID HE EXPECTED THAT THIS DRAFT WOULD BE THE BASIS FOR INSTRUCTIONS WHICH MISSION WOULD SOON RECEIVE.

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3. EFFAT SAID HE NOT YET CERTAIN HOW SPECIAL PROVISIONS WHICH

ARE CONTEMPLATED FOR THE BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT, I.E., THOSE RELATING TO LIMITATIONS ON FUEL FABRICATION, REPROCESSING AND STORAGE OF ENRICHED FUEL AS WELL AS PRODUCED PLUTONIUM, AND ALSO SPECIAL PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES, WOULD BE HANDLED. HE ASSUMED, HOWEVER, THAT ALL ASPECTS OF "SAFEGUARDS" WOULD BE COVERED TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY IN THE TRILATERAL AGREEMENT. HE SPECIFICALLY EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE TWO SEPARATE "SAFEGUARDS" ARRANGMENTS, AT LEAST ON THE BASIS OF HIS CURRENT INFORMATION. COMMENT: WE ASSUME US INTENTION IS TO IMPLEMENT BILATERALLY WHATEVER "SPECIAL PROVISIONS" THAT FALL OUTSIDE EXISTING IAEA SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM ARE INCLUDED IN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION AND NOT HAVE THEM IMPLEMENTED BY IAEA UNDER TRILATERAL. IF IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THESE "SPECIAL PROVISIONS" ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO BE "SAFEGUARDS", THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE NO DIFFICULTY WITH WHAT EFFAT SAID. ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS MAY SIGNAL POTENTIAL PROBLEM IN NEGOTIATIONS OF BILATERAL AND TRILATERAL. END COMMENT

4. HE STRESSED EGYPT'S DESIRE TO MOVE AHEAD AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE ALL ASPECTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BOTH WITH THE USG AND THE VENDOR. HE HOPED THAT THE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WOULD BE READY FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SEPTEMBER 13 BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING AND REALIZED THAT THIS WOULD REQUIRE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT NO LATER THAN EARLY AUGUST. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT PRIOR TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE BILATERAL.

5. ON OTHER SUBJECT, EFFAT EXPRESSED HIS DEEP PERSONAL CONCERN ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE INDIAN EXPLOSION ON THE QUESION OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND THE NPT ITSELF, BUT RE-EMPHASIZED EGYPT'S DESIRE TO RATIFY THE NPT WHEN AND IF ISRAEL DOES SO. HE REFERRED TO RECENT PRESS SPECULATION CONCERNING ISRAEL'S POSSESSION OF ATOMIC WEAPONS AND SAID THAT THIS PUT EGYPT SOMEWHAT IN THE SAME POSITION VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL AS PAKISTAN NOW SEEMED TO BE WITH RESPECT TO INDIA. HE DISCUSSED THE DIMONA REACTOR AND ITS PLUTONIUM-PRODUCING CAPABILITIES IN SOME DETAIL. RECOGNIZING THAT THE FRENCH HAD SUPPLIED DIMONA TO ISRAEL (AND I MADE CLEAR THAT ALL US MATERIAL SUPPLIED TO ISREAL WAS UNDER SAFEGUARDS), HE MADE EQUALLY CLEAR THAT THE FRENCH ORIGIN OF DIMONA WOULD BE FORGOTTEN IF ISRAEL WERE TO CLAIM OR TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHERWISE ESTABLISH THE POSSESSION OF A NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. IN THAT CASE, AT LEAST IN THE ARAB WORLD, THE US WOULD GET ALL OF THE BLAME; THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS WERE OBVIOUS WITH RESPECT TO THE US POSITION IN THE AREA. EFFAT ALSO EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT POTENTIAL NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE GENERAL AREA OF THE MIDDLE EAST, QUITE APART FROM ISRAEL. HE THOUGHT THAT ACQUISITION OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE BY ANOTHER POWER, ON TOP OF THE INDIAN EXAMPLE, WOULD CREATE

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